

REMARKS

The Applicant sincerely appreciates the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of February 21, 2008 (the Office Action). In response, the Applicant has: amended independent Claims 1, 12, 23, 34, 45, and 48 to provide further clarification thereof; canceled Claims 3 and 25; amended Claims 15 and 37 to provide consistency with amendments to Claims 12 and 34; and added new Claims 50-55. The Applicant has also amended the claims, specification, and figures to correct informalities noted therein.

In the following remarks, the Applicant will show that all claims are patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course.

Statement Of The Substance Of The Interview

The Applicant sincerely appreciates all courtesies extended by Examiner Deane during the telephonic interview of April 10, 2008. In particular, the Applicant appreciates the Examiner's agreement that all objections relating to the drawings and all rejections under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112 appear to have been overcome. If after review of this Amendment the Examiner should feel that correction of any other informalities should be required, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney (Scott C. Hatfield) at (919) 854-1400 to facilitate correction thereof before issuing a subsequent Office Action.

The Applicant also appreciates the opportunity to discuss distinctions between U.S. Patent No. 6,742,876 to Williams *et al.* ("Williams") and the claimed invention. Distinctions between Williams and the claimed invention are presented below.

The Applicant believes that this paper satisfies all requirements for a Statement of the Substance of the Interview as set forth in 37 C.F.R. Sec. 1.133 and MPEP Sec. 713.04. If the Examiner should believe that any further submission should be required with respect to the telephonic interview of April 10, 2008, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney (Scott C. Hatfield) via telephone at (919) 854-1400.

All Objections To The Drawings Have Been Overcome

The Office Action has objected to the drawings. In particular, the Office Action states that:

The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the network administration application, network service application, ISUP parameter fields, a coupling, a switch, a second network administration application and flow charts of the methods as recited in the claims must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).

Office Action, page 2.

In response, the Applicant has amended Figure 1 to explicitly illustrate network administration applications 401a and 401k and switches Sa, Sb, Sc, and Sm, and added new Figure 4 to explicitly illustrate ISUP Communication 401 including ISUP fields 403a, 403b, 403c, and 403d. The Applicant has also amended related portions of the specification to include respective references for these elements. The term "network service application" (which was inadvertently included in Claim 1) has been amended to "network administration application" so that illustration of a "network service application" is not required. Regarding the method claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that appropriate flow charts have been provided in Figures 2 and 3.

Regarding the term "coupling" (which is recited in Claims 7, 21, 29, and 43), the Applicant respectfully submits that couplings between communications devices and a communications network are illustrated by subscriber lines 109a, 109b, 109c, and 109d as shown in Figure 1 and discussed in paragraphs [0019], [0026], [0027], [0035], [0036], [0039], and [0042]. As set forth in paragraph [0019] of the Application (as originally filed):

each of the communications devices **103a-m** may be coupled to a respective local central office **105a-n** using a respective subscriber line **109a-m**.

Application, paragraph [0019], page 6. Moreover, other couplings are contemplated as set forth, for example, in paragraph [0026] of the Application. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the feature of a "coupling" is illustrated by the subscriber lines of Figure 1.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that all objections to the drawings have been overcome. If the Examiner should believe that any objections with respect to the drawings should be maintained, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone before issuing a next Office Action.

All Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112 Have Been Overcome

Claims 1-11, 23-33, and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Regarding Claim 1, the Office Action states that there is no antecedent basis for "the network service application" and that "an identification of the target device" should read as -- the identification....-. Regarding Claim 23, the Office Action states that there is no antecedent basis for "the network service application". In response, the recitation "the network service application" has been amended to "the network administration service application" in Claims 1 and 23. In addition, Claims 1 and 23 have been amended to clarify that an identification of a target device is obtained, and the recitation of "an identification..." has been amended to "an the identification...." Accordingly, all noted objections relating to Claims 1 and 23 have been overcome.

Regarding Claim 48, the Office Action states that there is no antecedent basis for "the network administration application." In response, the recitation "the network administration application..." has been amended to "the a network administration application...."

Accordingly, all informalities noted in the Office Action have been corrected. In addition, the Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the claims for any other informalities. Based on this review, the Applicant has corrected the spelling of the term "application" in Claim 23, and the Applicant has amended Claim 49 to end with a period. In Claim 48, the recitation "the target device..." has been amended to "the a target device..." Accordingly, the Applicant believes that all informalities in the claims have been corrected.

Independent Claims 1, 23, And 45 Are Patentable Over Williams

Independent Claims 1 and 23 have been amended to include the recitations of dependent Claims 3 and 25, respectively, and Claim 45 has been amended to include similar recitations. Moreover, Claims 1, 3, 23, 25, and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,724,876 to Williams *et al.* ("Williams"). The Applicant respectfully submits, however, that Claims 1, 23, and 45 are patentable for at least the reasons discussed below.

Claim 1, for example, recites a method of operating a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving an initiating communication from an initiating device directed to a network administration application, the initiating communication including an identification of the initiating device and an identification of the network administration application;

obtaining an identification of a target device for which action is being requested by the initiating device; and

transmitting a command communication from the network administration application to a subscriber line providing service for the target device, the command communication including the identification of the initiating device, the identification of the target device, and a code identifying the action being requested by the initiating communication;

wherein receiving the initiating communication comprises receiving a call initiating communication from the initiating device and wherein transmitting the command communication comprises forwarding the call initiating communication. (Underline added.)

The Applicant respectfully submits that Williams fails to teach or suggest receiving a call initiating communication from an initiating device as recited in Claim 1. In contrast, Williams states that:

call control information is transmitted through the bearer channel of the established call. The call control information is detected and retrieved from the bearer channel by the bearer channel monitor. The call control information is further processed to effect a designated call service feature to the parties of the established call. (Underline added.)

Williams, col. 5, lines 36-42. *See also*, Williams, col. 2, lines 45-48; col. 3, lines 32-34; col. 6, lines 39-41; and col. 11, lines 12-15 and lines 61-64. Because Williams discusses

retrieving call control information from a bearer channel of an established call, Williams teaches away from a call initiating communication as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Williams. The Applicant further submits that independent Claims 23 and 45 are also patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1. In addition, dependent Claims 2, 4-11, 24, 26-33, 46-47, and 50-52 are patentable at least as per the patentability of Claims 1, 23, and 45 from which they depend.

Independent Claims 12, 34, And 48 Are Patentable Over Williams

Independent Claims 12 and 34 have been amended to include recitations of dependent Claims 15 and 37, respectively, and Claim 48 has been amended to include similar recitations. Moreover, Claims 12, 34, and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(e) as being anticipated by Williams. The Applicant respectfully submits, however, that Claims 12, 34, and 48 are patentable for at least the reasons discussed below.

Claim 12, for example, recites a method of operating a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving a command communication at a switch for a target device, the command communication including an identification of an initiating device, an identification of the target device, and a code identifying an action relating to service for the target device wherein receiving the command communication comprises receiving a call initiating communication;

forwarding the command communication from the switch for the target device to a network administration application corresponding to the switch for the target device; and

initiating action at the network administration application relating to service for the target device according to the code included in the command communication.
(Underline added.)

The Applicant respectfully submits that Williams fails to teach or suggest receiving a command communication at a switch for a target device including a code identifying an action relating to service for the target device, wherein receiving the command communication comprises receiving a call initiating communication. As discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Williams states that:

call control information is transmitted through the bearer channel of the established call. The call control information is detected and retrieved from the bearer channel by the bearer channel monitor. The call control information is further processed to effect a designated call service feature to the parties of the established call. (Underline added.)

Williams, col. 5, lines 36-42. *See also*, Williams, col. 2, lines 45-48; col. 3, lines 32-34; col. 6, lines 39-41; and col. 11, lines 12-15 and lines 61-64. Because Williams discusses retrieving call control information from a bearer channel of an established call, Williams teaches away from a call initiating communication as recited in Claim 12.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 12 is patentable over Williams. The Applicant further submits that independent Claims 34 and 48 are also patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 12. In addition, dependent Claims 13-22, 35-44, 49, and 53-55 are patentable at least as per the patentability of Claims 12, 34, and 48 from which they depend.

Dependent Claims 6, 16, 20, 28, 38, 42, 47, 49 And 50-55 Are Separately Patentable

Dependent Claims 6, 16, 20, 28, 38, 42, 47, 49, and 50-55 are patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claims 1, 12, 23, 34, 45, and 48. These claims are also separately patentable for at least the additional reasons discussed below.

Claim 50, for example, depends from Claim 1 and thus includes all recitations discussed above with respect to Claim 1. In addition, Claim 50 recites that "the code identifying the action relating to the target device is included in a redirecting party field of the command communication." While Williams discusses a Signaling System 7 (SS7) network (*see*, Williams, col. 6, lines 21-23) and Integrated Services Digital Network User Part (ISUP) common channel signaling messages (*see*, Williams, col. 4, lines 48-50), Williams fails to teach or suggest the non-conventional use of a redirecting party field as recited in Claim 50.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 50 is separately patentable over Williams. The Applicant further submits that Claims 6, 28, 47, 51, and 52 are separately patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 50.

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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that all pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone should any additional issues need to be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

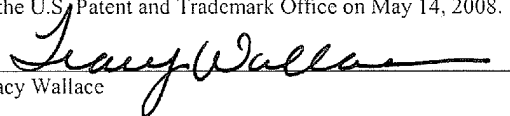


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 14, 2008.


Tracy Wallace